



The Reproductive System

The biological function of the reproductive system is to produce offspring. The essential organs are those producing the germ cells (testes in males and ovaries in females). The male manufactures sperm and delivers them to the female's reproductive tract. The female, in turn, produces eggs. If the time is suitable, the egg and sperm fuse, producing a fertilized egg, which is the first cell of the new individual. Once fertilization has occurred, the female uterus protects and nurtures the developing embryo.

In this chapter, student activities concern the structures of the male and female reproductive systems, germ cell formation, the menstrual cycle, and embryonic development.

ANATOMY OF THE MALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM

1. Using the following terms, trace the pathway of sperm from the testis to the urethra: rete testis, epididymis, seminiferous tubule, ductus deferens. List the terms in the proper order in the spaces provided.

_____ → _____ → _____ → _____

2. How do the scrotal muscles help maintain temperature homeostasis of the testes?

